Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 MCE-00 ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IGA-02 AID-05 EB-08 L-03 /036 W

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R 131028Z SEP 77 FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6115

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: MASS, EFIN, TH SUBJ: FY 77 FMS FINANCING

REF: STATE 216784

- 1. EMBOFF HAS DISCUSSED UPCOMING TRIP TO WASHINGTON RE FISCAL 77 FMS CREDIT AGREEMENT. HEAD OF FISCAL POLICY OFFICE BANDIT BUNYAPANA AND TWO OTHER OFFICIALS FROM FINANCE MINISTRY WILL BE SEEKING CERTAIN TECHNICAL CHANGES IN FMS AGREEMENT. REASON FOR SEEKING CHANGES IS THAT IN BANDIT'S VIEW STANDARD FMS AGREEMENT HAS CERTAIN CLAUSES WHICH ARE CONTRADICTORY TO THE LEGAL REQUIREMENTS IMPOSED BY THAI LAW ON FOREIGN LOANS THE THAIS HAVE VERY CONSERVATIVE REGULATIONS ON FOREIGN BORROWING, AND SOURCE TOLD EMBASSY THAT AGREEMENTS PREVIOUSLY SIGNED UNDER FMS WERE TECHNICALLY ILLEGAL UNDER THAI LAW.
- 2. EMBOFF QUOTED SUBSTANCE OF PARAGRAPHS 3 AND 4 OF REFTEL GIVING U.S. POSITION THAT TERMS AT THIS POINT WERE NOT ENGOTIABLE. MINISTRY NEVERTHELESS BELIEVES THAT IT MUST CONFER IN WASHINGTON ON THIS MATTER. BANDIT IS GOING TO WASHINGTON IN ANY EVENT TO ATTEND WORLD BANK ANNUAL MEETING. ACCORDING TO FINANCE MINISTRY, NO ONE FROM DEFENSE MINISTRY BANGKOK IS PLANNING ON MAKING THE TRIP. MINISTRY WILL BE REPRESENTED BY MILITARY ATTACHE IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WASHINGTON. A SENIOR MOD OFFICIAL TOLD JUSMAG REP THAT DELEGATION WOULD HAVE CHECK FOR \$75,000 TO COVER LOAN GUARANTY FEES AND IT WAS RTG INTENTION TO SIGN AGREEMENT PRIOR TO SEPT 30.

3. THAI LEGAL REQUIREMENTS GOVERNING FOREIGN BORROWING ARE GENUINELY RESTRICTIVE. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT BANDIT

BE GIVEN FULL AND SYMPATHETIC HEARING, AND IF THERE IS ANY LEEWAY TO AMEND LANGUAGE OF AGREEMENT TO MEET RTG REQUIREMENTS WITHOUT ALTERING BASIC TERMS, THAT IT BE DONE. WE BELIEVE RTG UNDERSTANDS AND ACCEPTS BASIC TERMS AND PROCEDURES DESCRIBED PARA 3 REFTEL DESPITE SOME RECENTLY EXPRESSED HOPES FROM SENIOR MOD OFFICERS THAT BETTER TERMS COULD BE OBTAINED. WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: POLICIES, MILITARY SALES, FINANCIAL PROGRAMS

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 13-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am

Decaption Note:

Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 22 May 2009 Disposition Event:

Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BANGKO20360
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00

Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A

Errors: N/A **Expiration:**

Film Number: D770331-0658

Format: TEL From: BANGKOK Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770971/aaaaciec.tel

Line Count: 70 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Message ID: fc4f0548-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION PM

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: 77 STĂTE 216784

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 02-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 1300746 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: FY 77 FMS FINANCING

TAGS: MASS, EFIN, TH, (BANDIT BUNYAPANA)

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fc4f0548-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009